

Appl. No. 10/728,225

Amdt. Dated December 7, 2004

Reply to Office Action of October 8, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application:

1. (currently amended) A system for damping vibration of a mass, comprising:

a housing having at least an outer peripheral surface[[,]] configured to mount to the mass, and an inner peripheral surface that defines an interior space, the inner peripheral surface configured to be substantially smooth; and

macro-particles disposed within the housing interior space, the macro-particles comprising material being substantially thermally stable, substantially chemically stable, and substantially wear-resistant in temperatures at least as low as about 0° Kelvin and having substantially smooth surfaces and able to thereby flow therein, in the housing interior space and to thereby simulate a fluid.
2. (cancelled).
3. (currently amended) The system of claim [[2]]1, wherein the macro-particles comprise macro-particles that are substantially orb-shape.
4. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the macro-particles further comprise macro-particles having substantially fractured surfaces.
5. (cancelled).
6. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one protrusion located on the housing inner peripheral surface to disrupt macroparticle flow.

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7. (original) The system of claim 6, wherein the protrusion comprises a baffle located on the housing inner peripheral surface.
8. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein the baffle is washer-shaped.
9. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein the baffle is formed on the housing inner surface.
10. (original) The system of claim 7 wherein the baffle is coupled to the housing inner surface.
11. (original) The system of claim 6, wherein the at least one protrusion comprises a surface texture formed on the housing inner peripheral surface.
12. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the macro-particles comprise macro-particles that are about 1 μm to 1 mm in size.
13. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the macro-particles comprise single atom macro-particles.
14. (cancelled).
15. (currently amended) The system of claim [[14]]1, wherein the material is graphite.
16. (currently amended) The system of claim [[14]]1, wherein the material is aluminum oxide.

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17. (currently amended) The system of claim [[14]]L, wherein the macro-particles comprise a mixture of macro-particles, each macro-particle processed from a different material.

18. (currently amended) The system of claim [[14]]L, wherein the macro-particles comprise macro-particles processed from more than one material.

19. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the macro-particles comprise ceramic-coated metal macro-particles.

20. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the macro-particles comprise metal-coated ceramic macro-particles.

21. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a stirring mechanism disposed within the macro-particles.

22. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the stirring mechanism includes grains capable of moving through the macro-particles upon agitation of the system.

23. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the stirring mechanism is coupled to the housing inner peripheral surface

24. (original) The system of claim 23, wherein the stirring mechanism is a component configured to mechanically stir the macro-particles.